

Red-breasted Merganser, *Mergus serrator*. A single male on 14th October, 1967. A reliable observer also saw what he took to be a male in the same area at the end of November. Previous records were from New Providence only.

Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*. A single bird found exhausted on the beach, Fresh Creek, Andros, on 3rd February, 1968. This was a first winter immature bird. This is particularly interesting as Coulson (1966) states that the winter range of the Kittiwake '... the whole of the North Atlantic north of latitude 40° N. to the southern limits of the winter ice.' Here the latitude is approximately 24° 45' N. Bond (1961) lists records, number unspecified, from Havana, Cuba, in early January. This is the first record for the Bahamas.

Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*. A single male on 1st October, 1967. This warbler has been recorded for several other islands.

Connecticut Warbler, *Operornis agilis*. One male on 25th October, 1967. They have been recorded for at least three other islands.

I am grateful to C. Russell Mason of the Florida Audubon Society for making available lists of species seen by members of that Society in the Bahamas.

References:

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Range and variation of the Icterine Bulbul in Uganda

by HERBERT FRIEDMANN

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The Icterine Bulbul, *Phyllastrephus icterinus tricolor*, occurs side by side with the remarkably similar, but somewhat larger Xavier's Bulbul, *P. xavieri xavieri* and because of their exceedingly close resemblance both have been misidentified often in the past, making the proper allocation of literature records very difficult. Chapin (1944) first elucidated the distinction of the two, and in his later (1953, p. 166-169) account showed that the smaller *icterinus* ranged from Fernando Po and southern Cameroun, south to Gabon, and east to the lower Congo, Kasai, upper Congo, and the Semliki valley, while the larger *xavieri* occurred from southern Cameroun to the middle and upper Congo, to the Semliki, and to the Budongo and Bugoma forests in extreme western Uganda. Van Someren (1932, p. 344) had, however, earlier recorded *xavieri* (under the name *P. icterinus seth-smithi*) still farther to the east in Uganda, from Mubendi and from Butambara (= Butambala, 0° 12' N., 32° 08' E.) Friedmann (1966, p. 31) later added Bwamba as an additional specimen locality in Uganda.

Recent collections resulting from zoological surveys of the isolated forests of western Uganda, made under a National Science Foundation grant (GB-5107) have revealed that both of these bulbuls occur together in a number of localities in that country, not only in the Bwamba and Budongo forests of extreme western Uganda, but also as far to the east as the Malabigambo forest, Sango Bay, near Masaka, in the northern part of the west side of Lake Victoria. The Icterine Bulbul had not been reported previously from specific localities in Uganda, although White (1962, p. 92) did include "western Uganda" in its range, apparently on the basis of unpublished data. The present specimens from the Malabigambo forest extend its range about 150 miles to the east. It is now known to occur in at least the three forested areas mentioned above, and will probably be found elsewhere as well. Xavier's Bulbul is now known from at least seven Uganda forests: Budongo, Bugoma, Butambala, Bwamba, Malabigambo, Masindi and Mubendi.

As Chapin was the first to remark, the distributional patterns of the various species of the genus *Phyllastrephus* overlap to the extent that it is not unusual to find two or more of them in the same localities, but it is unusual to find birds so similar in their coloration and habits as *xavieri* and *icterinus* living side by side over most of their extensive ranges. That they can do so implies effective isolating mechanisms of the nature of which we are still completely ignorant. In the coastal belt of eastern Africa there is a parallel case where the species *P. strepitans* and *P. terrestris* overlap and remain distinct in spite of their mutual similarities.

P. xavieri and *P. icterinus* may be told apart only from their measurements, and inasmuch as the females are considerably smaller than the males, wrongly sexed specimens can easily confuse the picture, as the males of *icterinus* and the females of *xavieri*, if inaccurately sexed, cannot be told apart. Confining the study to reliably determined examples we find all our specimens of *icterinus* agree fairly closely with the measurements given by Chapin. The dimensions of our specimens are as follows: males; wing 70.5 to 81.1; tail 65.0 to 75.4; culmen from anterior end of nostril 9.5 to 10.6; females: wing 65.6 to 70.9; tail 58 to 71.1; culmen from anterior end of nostril 9.0 to 10.1 mm. There is a peculiar mensural difference between the Sango Bay birds and those from extreme western Uganda (Bwamba and Budongo), and from the Congo, which suggests an incipient differentiation chiefly in the shorter bill length in the eastern birds of both sexes, and in longer wing length (average) and longer tails in males, but not in females, of the Sango Bay population. Thus the length of the culmen from the distal (anterior) end of the nostril to the tip of the bill in Congo and west Uganda birds varies from 10.6 to 10.9 (males), 9 to 10.1 (females) while in Sango Bay specimens the range is from 9.5 to 10.2 (males) and from 9 to 9.6 mm. (females). The wing length in Congo and west Uganda birds varies from 70.5 to 80 (males), 65 to 70.4 (females) while in Sango Bay birds it varies from 75.3 to 81.1 (males), 66.7 to 68.2 (females); the tail length of western males is 64 to 73, of western females 56 to 71.7 and in eastern birds it is 70.3 to 75.4 (males) and 58 to 61.2 (females). The difference in size between the Sango Bay birds and the more westerly ones is not sufficient to warrant subspecific recognition, but it is of interest in that it indicates a peculiar situation wherein one sex shows a dimensional divergence greater than the other.

The Malabigambo forest is the easternmost locality where both species are known to occur together. Xavier's Bulbul was previously known to occur in two other spots equally far to the east: Butambala, which is about 25 or 30 miles to the north-east of the Malabigambo, and Masindi, which is on about the same degree of longitude (31° 42' E.). That both of these species of bulbuls are common in the Sango Bay area is indicated by the fact that in a single month's general bird collecting, no fewer than 12 specimens of *P. icterinus tricolor* and eight of *P. xavieri xavieri* were obtained, between 21st January and 16th February, 1968. Four of the males of *P. icterinus* had enlarged testes; none of the females showed any ovarian enlargement. The stomach contents showed this bulbul to be wholly insectivorous, but the insect fragments were not identified. The weights of male *icterinus* varied from 18 to 21.5 grams, while male *xavieri* ranged from 20 to 26 grams.

References:

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First specimen of *Otus scops turanicus* (Loudon) from Africa

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Among the birds collected for the Los Angeles County Museum by the Knudsen-Machris East African Expedition in 1963 is a specimen of *Otus scops turanicus* (Loudon). It was collected at Bura, on the Tana River, Kenya, on 5th March, 1963. Its large size (wing 157) indicates that it cannot be any of the local African races (the *senegalensis* group), whose wing measurements are given by White (1965) as 126-140. It must therefore be one of the wintering Palaearctic birds, which are larger. The only Palaearctic race listed by White (*loc. cit.*) as reaching Africa is nominate *scops*, but the Machris bird is too pale and grey to belong to this race. Keith, together with Charles Vaurie, compared it with specimens of *Otus scops* subspp. in the American Museum of Natural History, and it agreed with their series of *Otus s. turanicus*.

This is therefore the first specimen record of this race for the African continent, although Vaurie (1965) surmised that it probably migrates through Arabia from its breeding grounds in western Asia to winter in north-eastern Africa.

References:

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